Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, On July 26, 1990, President George H. W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and this action signaled a transformation in our nation's public policies toward people with disabilities; and,

Whereas, In the last 18 years, we have worked hard to eliminate harmful stereotypes, and have grown to understand and accept disability as a natural part of the human experience; and,

Whereas, We celebrate government, business, and citizens working together to remove barriers and false perceptions faced by Americans with disabilities; and,

Whereas, We celebrate our commitment to the goals of the ADA–creating equal opportunities for employment, economic self-sufficiency, and independent living–for all citizens to fulfill their unalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and,

Whereas, America is now a dramatically different and better country, as we have come to recognize that all Americans have talents and gifts needed by our country; and,

Whereas, The year 2008 is the 18th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which will call to action individuals, agencies, and service and advocacy organizations in South Dakota communities to organize activities, programs, and resources during the day and throughout the year to promote full inclusion of people with disabilities:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim July 26, 2008, as

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT DAY

in South Dakota, and I encourage all citizens to work together with others across our state and nation to promote equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for all people.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fifteenth Day of July in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State